

8 February 1977

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting on Sources and Methods Legislation,
8 February 1977

1. I attended a meeting with [redacted] OGC, STAT
and Roger LeMaster, Legislative Counsel to Senator Walter Huddleston (D., Ky.), to discuss sources and methods legislation. Mr. LeMaster informed the Agency participants that Senator Huddleston, in light of his role as a member of the Select Committee on Intelligence, intended to introduce legislation governing unauthorized disclosure of intelligence sources and methods. Mr. LeMaster and Elliot Maxwell, Senator Huddleston's designee on the Select Committee, have primary responsibility for drawing up a draft bill. Mr. LeMaster noted that, with reference to the Select Committee's 1 July deadline for reporting to the Senate on the issues specified in S. Res. 400, Senator Huddleston hoped to have a bill ready to introduce within about one month, with hearings to follow in March and April.

2. Mr. LeMaster was familiar with H.R. 12006, the sources and methods bill from the 94th Congress, and it formed the basis of today's discussion. Mr. LeMaster expressed interest in our views as to what we felt sources and methods legislation must do, as well as our reaction to a number of points he raised as being of concern to him and/or which might engender opposition in the Senate. The Agency officers outlined for Mr. LeMaster the three basic disclosure problems faced by the Government to which effective sources and methods legislation must be addressed. Other general considerations, such as loss of respect for secrecy procedures in Government and costs related to intelligence disclosure, also were discussed. The in-STAT adequacies of existing statutes were addressed briefly.

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4. It was agreed that we would be back in touch with Mr. LeMaster and Eliot Maxwell as soon as we were able to develop [insofar as feasible] new language to take care of the concerns expressed by Mr. LeMaster. In response to a point raised by the Agency participants, Mr. LeMaster agreed that we should not "give in" on important issues simply because they would engender opposition in Committee or on the Senate floor. A number of important issues remain unresolved and OLC and OGC will address these and get back in touch with Mr. LeMaster (who will be out of town next week).

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Office of Legislative Counsel

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